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# The Friday Newsletter



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No. 2

January 14, 1977

CIVIL RIGHTS ACTION: I have forwarded to RF&D's the FY 1977-1979 Forest Service Affirmative Action Plan for Civil Rights. The recommendations made to me by the October Civil Rights Conference were reviewed and those accepted were incorporated in the Affirmative Action Plan. The targets in the Plan are to be finalized at the February RF&D meeting.

I wish to thank all the participants in attendance at the October Civil Rights Conference for their input into the Plan. Thanks are also in order to the Civil Rights Task Force for its yeomanlike work in assessing our overall civil rights progress.

Jetie Wilds, Director of WO Civil Rights Staff, is supervising the writing of a new civil rights section in the Forest Service Manual--Section 1890. Assisting him are detailers Lucy Brewer, R-5; Chuck Robinson, SO; Jerry Goldstein, R-8; and Joe Guss and Gilbert Espanoza, R-2. The first draft of the new section is scheduled for completion January 21.

NEW PROHIBITED ACTS REGULATIONS SIGNED: Secretary Knebel signed the new regulations on prohibited acts (36 CFR, Part 261, Prohibitions) on January 10. They were to be published in the Federal Register on January 14, and become effective February 15. Copies have been forwarded to RF&D's.

We now have an updated set of coordinated regulations; a uniform system for adopting and posting localized regulations; and a clear delegation of authority to make local regulations. In essence, 36 CFR, Part 261, Prohibitions contains three subparts:

Subpart A--General Prohibitions--contains regulations applying to the entire National Forest System.

Subpart B--Prohibitions in Areas Designated by Order--contains regulations that may be applied--by order--to specific parts of the National Forest System.

Subpart C--Prohibitions in Regions--contains the authority and procedure for the Chief and any Regional Forester to issue prohibitive regulations that have a unique or localized need not provided for in A or B above.

It is important to remember that we are now presenting NFS users with a different set of regulations and that we exercise discretion in their enforcement by ensuring that the public is given a reasonable opportunity to become aware of them.

PERSONNEL ACTION:

Region 8--Robert Cermak, Forest Supervisor, National Forests in North Carolina, reassigned to Deputy Regional Forester (Resources), R-5.

Region 10--Clarence Tipton, Regional Fiscal Agent, promoted to Supervisory Accountant, F&AM, WO.

WO--Berry Hendricks, Supervisory Budget Analyst, WO, reassigned to Assistant Director for Research Support Services, SO.

LEGISLATION:

95th Congress--The 95th Congress has convened and almost 2,000 bills have already been introduced. Probably 75-100 of these are of direct concern to the Forest Service. These bills are listed on the daily digest of the Congressional Record sent to each Region, Station and Area.

Among early bills introduced are: Expansion of YCC to a Young Adult Conservation Corps, strip mining regulation, revision of Mineral Leasing Act, extension of the rural fire program, numerous wilderness proposals, proposal for new public lands and wilderness in Alaska, the agricultural research bill, and even an amendment to the National Forest Management Act (S. 163) to permit small businesses in Alaska to elect to build roads in timber sale contracts.

Because several hundred bills are introduced daily at the beginning of the Congress, the Government Printing Office develops sizable backlogs which, in turn, affect our ability to procure bills here in Washington. Regions, Stations, and Areas should rely on the Congressional Record strongly during this start-up period. The text of almost all bills introduced in the Senate is printed along with introductory remarks in the Congressional Record. Unfortunately, the text of House bills is not printed in the Record. Keep in mind that most of the bills being introduced at this time are identical to bills from the last Congress.

House and Senate Schedule:

January 19 - House approves committee assignments

February 10-15 - Lincoln's Birthday recess

March 15 - Authorizing committees report FY '78 budget projections to  
Budget Committee

April 7-17 - Easter recess

April 15 - First budget resolution reported

May 15 - Deadline for reporting to chamber all bills providing new FY'78  
budget authority

May 27-31 - Memorial Day recess

July 1-9 - Independence Day recess

August 6 - Sept. 6 - Recess

September 12 - Deadline for passing all bills authorizing funds for FY '78  
and appropriations bills

October 10-14 - Columbus Day recess

November 19-28 - Thanksgiving recess

*John L. McGuire*

Chief

----- NFMA-BLM ORGANIC ACT -----  
IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

ACTION REPORTS:

TIMBER MANAGEMENT reports that on Tuesday, January 11, the timber sales task group chairmen (Stan Undi, R-5; Ed Anderson, R-1; George Olson, R-4; Jack Todd, R-6; and Jim Overbay, R-2) met in WO and presented their accomplishments to date to TM staff.

On January 12, at the invitation of the National Forest Products Association, TM staff members and the five chairmen met with NFPA representatives and received input and suggestions toward implementing the timber sales requirements of NFMA: Length and Term of Contract and Operating Plan; Collusive Bidding; Salvage Fund; Small Purchaser Roads; and K-V Act Funds. It was a constructive meeting. The data presented and suggestions offered will be reviewed and considered along with inputs and written comments from other interested groups when we formulate the final timber sales regulations scheduled for April 1.

FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE RESEARCH has almost completed a review draft of its report that summarizes the nationwide incidence of Dutch Elm disease, the status of current knowledge, and plans for research and public information (as required by Section 20, NFMA). This first draft is scheduled for distribution to all involved agencies during the week of January 17.

FS-BLM POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING: At a BLM Federal Land Policy Act Committee Meeting with the Forest Service on January 6, the discussion centered on the need for development of basic data and the definition of targets to meet the Act's requirements. They are necessary for an accomplishment report to Congress (required by Section 311). There is also a need to coordinate information developed by each agency. For example, some mutual resource data and assessments will be required by the Forest Service for RPA assessment purposes. And our development of lands statistical data should be coordinated with BLM's to ensure proper development of information for payment to counties under the new payment-in-lieu-of-tax legislation.

Also discussed were the proposed regulations and forthcoming meetings involved with use of helicopters for wild horse roundups. It was decided to postpone the February public hearings until March to allow more time for public notification.

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